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Agenda item 31
Culture of peace

Consolidated report containing a draft declaration and programme of action on a culture of peace

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

The decision set out below was adopted by the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its one hundred and fifty-fifth session at a meeting held on 6 November 1998 at Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Culture of peace

Meeting at Tashkent on the generous initiative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan,

Inspired by the wealth of the historic heritage of Uzbekistan and by its desire to safeguard and promote its cultural values in a spirit of openness to democracy and of peace, and thus encouraged to contribute to the advent of a culture of peace, which will be a challenge for the new millennium,

The Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO),

1. *Reiterating* the commitment enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war,

2. *Recalling* that UNESCO was created for the purpose of advancing, through the educational and scientific and cultural relations of the peoples of the world, the objectives of international peace and of the common welfare of mankind for which the United Nations Organization was established,

3. *Thanking* the Director-General for having launched the culture of peace initiative and for having largely contributed to the growing influence of this idea,

4. *Recalling* resolution 012 adopted by the General Conference at its twenty-eighth session concerning the Medium-Term Strategy for 1996–2001, which states that the major challenge at the close of the twentieth century is to begin the transition from a culture of war to a culture of peace:

(a) A culture of social interaction and sharing based on the principles of freedom, justice and democracy, tolerance and solidarity,

(b) A culture that rejects violence and endeavours to prevent conflicts by tackling their roots and to solve problems through dialogue and negotiation,

(c) A culture that guarantees everyone the full exercise of all rights and the means to participate fully in the endogenous development of their society,

5. *Taking into account* the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance and the Follow-Up Plan of Action for the United Nations Year for Tolerance,

6. *Gratified* that the United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed the year 2000 the International Year for the Culture of Peace,

7. *Fully aware* of the great responsibility that will devolve upon UNESCO during the International Year for the Culture of Peace with a view to promoting a world historical and civilizational change in which people learn to live together in a multicultural context sharing common democratic ideals,

8. *Recalling* the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations to the General Assembly that the first decade of the new millennium be proclaimed an international decade dedicated to a culture of peace and non-violence for the children of the world,

9. *Considers* that humanity's transition to a new millennium marks a historic turning point when men and women must pledge to discard attitudes and behaviour which, in the past, have so often been the source of war, violence and social injustice, and to adopt attitudes and behaviour conducive to a future based on a culture of peace;

10. *Reaffirms* that all of UNESCO's activities must contribute to the promotion of a culture of peace;

11. *Stresses* more particularly UNESCO's commitment in the field of education to tolerance, human rights and democracy;

12. *Recommends* that UNESCO's Programme for 2000–2001, marking the transition to the new millennium, bear the stirring title "Towards a culture of peace";

13. *Invites* member States, the institutions of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to celebrate the International Year for the Culture of Peace in the year 2000 by memorable events, to take as of now all necessary steps to ensure the success of the Year, and thus to affirm the values of tolerance and mutual understanding and the values of combating poverty and exclusion, all of which are actions that will primarily be of benefit to women and young people and to the least developed countries;

14. *Invites* the Director-General to take the measures necessary for the implementation of this decision and for securing its widest possible circulation.